

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

10 August 1982 Vol 1 No 17

35p

Street Alley on Vic 20

Palom tapes

ZXucation

Programmable  
character  
generator

Swamp  
for BBC

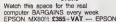
Spectrum  
moving patterns



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# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

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### Editor

Brendon Gore

### Reporter

David Kelly (01-620 3271)

### Sub-editor

Peter Harvey

### Editorial Secretary

Fiona McCormick

### Advertisement Manager

David Lake (01-620 2846)

### Advertisement Executive

Alastair Macintosh (01-620 2846)

### Managing Editor

Duncan Scott

### Publishing Director

Jeremy Inland  
Mok, Hampshire

### Popular Computing Weekly

Hobhouse Court, 15 Whitcomb Street,  
London WC2  
Telephone: 01-409 6635

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## Editorial

The government's scheme to put a micro in every primary school in the UK is a laudable idea (PCW August 5) though a scheme to put five or 10 micros in every primary school would have been better.

But there is one part of the scheme that strikes a discordant note. For a school to qualify under the scheme, it must choose from one of three different micros — Sinclair's 48K, 24 Spectrum, Acorn's BBC micro model B and Research Machines' 4802.

Microcomputer manufacturers were not invited to tender for the scheme. The government also failed to produce a list of specifications that manufacturers had to meet in order to be placed on the approved list.

Instead, three micros were selected — using the experience of the education departments' microelectronics programmes and with advice from educational advisers.

The scheme has undoubted benefits for the chosen manufacturers. Apart from a potential market of 27,000, there are incalculable advantages in familiarising future generations with a particular manufacturer's machine.

More manufacturers not on the approved list have reason to feel dissatisfied with the government.

## Next Week



Repeat waves of fighters in Alien Attack, a 16-machine code game for Z88.



## Adams is first with Spectrum Ram converter...

HEARD & SON, a specialist Apple II dealer, has designed a Spectrum RAM converter that enables a 1Mk Ram pack to be added to a 1Mk ZX Spectrum giving 10Mk of memory.

The converter will also allow the Spectrum to run most of the Z801 peripherals which operate on the top 10K of memory.

The converter costs £7 and will be on display at the ZX Machine in London on August 21.

Enquiries to Stephen Adams, 1 Essex Road, London N15.

## ... plus add-on Ram from DK 'Tronics

DK 'Tronics has produced the first add-on Ram board for the ZX Spectrum.

The unit converts a 1Mk Spectrum into a 2Mk model in the same way as the official Spectrum Ram board.

The ZX board costs nearly £20 less than the factory equivalent and unlike the official board it can be fitted by the purchaser.

Derek Hales of DK 'Tronics said: "There is no need to send your Spectrum anywhere. Fitting the board is relatively simple."

The company has no plans to produce boards with more than 2Mk. Says Derek Hales: "4Mk is a good way. With the micro floppy on the way there will be no market for larger boards."

The 2Mk add-on costs £19.95 (plus £1 p & p) and is available either at the 4th ZX Fair or from DK 'Tronics, 21 Inverness Road, Chorlton-on-Wedghe, Salford.

## 4th ZX Fair due in two weeks

115000 (approximately) are likely to see the 4th ZX Fair at the New Theatre, 100000 Hall, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1A on Wednesday August 21 (10am-6pm).

Over 120 exhibitors will be there and organiser Mike Sullivan is confident that it will be a success.



The Colour Genie. 1Mk Ram. 2Mk Ram for £7.95

## Colour Genie for mid-September

THE converter to the Genie will arrive in the UK next month.

Costing £199 the new Colour Genie converts 1Mk Ram to 2Mk, 2Mk to 4Mk and 4Mk to 8Mk.

The machine manufactured by Data International in Hong Kong will use a basic version similar to that on the current Genie and software will be compatible.

The 40 x 24 character display can be programmed to produce 160 x 80 character graphics.

Up to 16 colours can be generated by programming and in addition to the 128 alpha numeric characters there are 64 pre-programmed and 128 programmable graphic characters.

The Colour Genie has two parallel ports, programmable

serial port and provision for a plug-in games cartridge. High-level basic has been incorporated to write software for the new micro.

The machine is expandable with a plug-in 1Mk Ram cartridge. Data will follow — hopefully to be demonstrated at the Personal Computer World Show in September.

Lower Electronics are the sole importers of the Colour Genie. Robert Bland, head of that Computer Division said: "We already have several thousand orders and we are hoping for great things from the product."

Initially the machine will be sold by mail order and through existing Genie retailers.

Contact Lower Electronics, Chatterfield Road, Marlock, Derbyshire.

## Tangerine have a Tigris in their tank

TANGERINE has announced that its 1Mk Tigris TD 1000 microcomputer will be launched in mid-October.

The triple processor machine will sell in two forms.

The basic Tigris, with 1Mk of program Ram and 256K of dedicated graphics memory, will cost £299.

A more advanced machine incorporating a 16-colour colour monitor and other desirable double-breast features will probably cost a further £200.

It will be possible to upgrade the basic Tigris.

Both machines are based around the Z80A processor and use a 5Mk chip to handle the serial output features and



Apple's impedance of the Tigris is a dual processor to run the colour graphics.

The two versions run a modified version of Microsoft 2.2 Basic.

The Tigris TD 1000 is supplied with a full size keyboard, Commodore and RS232C interfaces, Parallel Modem (with built-in auto-dialler), cassette interface, parallel Ram buffers built up and light pen and set working ports.

## Apple acts to halt sales of illegal micros

APPLE has acted to stop the illegal manufacture of incompatible Apple clones by two Hong Kong companies.

In law suits brought against the two companies Apple Computers claims infringement of its trade marks, patents and copyright.

The counterfeit machines almost indistinguishable from real Apple II machines are apparently being sold in Hong Kong for as little as £200. The companies favourable with the price of the official Apple II of about £300.

For every genuine micro sold, about ten copies are bought. It has been estimated that the output of these clandestine back-street factories could be as high as 5000 per month.

The patents claimed to be infringed relate to the colour video unit. Apple also claims that copyright of its logo and instructions manual have been infringed.

The initial action is seen as the first of a series of moves to halt the flood of copied machines from over 30 illegal assembly companies.

Although Apple is seeking damages related to lost revenue and salaries of the offending machines, the main purpose of the court action is to prohibit the copying.

These moves come as Apple — facing valiant competition — announced encouraging third-quarter financial results.

## Commodore joins classroom battle

COMMODORE are to set up their own Educational Unit in encouraging the use of Pico and Vic in schools.

The move comes in a reaction to their withdrawal from the government's "Market in Schools" grant scheme.

Graham Sullivan will leave his appointment as headmaster of Loughborough Primary School to head the unit in September.

A spokesman for the American company said: "The unit will further our educational interests. Already there are more Commodore machines in schools than any other micro."

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# Letters

write to Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Habbhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2

## When 16K is not OK, OK?

I would like to draw your attention to what may be quite a frequent comment:

I recently received the ZX Spectrum; I ordered, but when I had paid for a 48K machine I found out, quite by accident, that 256K of it was missing.

I had attempted to enter DM 40 (10000).

This gave an out-of-memory error. When I rang Sinclair they told me to enter the following command. It may be worth mentioning this, just to make sure you've got a 48K machine.

enter 16K:00000-15,15,0

If you have paid for a 48K Spectrum and you get the amount 16K (in or if you get 16 15K) then you either have a faulty machine or you have been sent a Spectrum with only 16K.

David Powell  
129 Chestnut Grove  
Bathurst  
London SW12

## And three hours use is not OK

I ordered my Spectrum on May 1 and it arrived on July 1.

I used it for three hours that evening and, the following morning after two minutes use, the screen went blank and never appeared from the time it is now on its way back to Sinclair.

Is that a record?

Abdullah Mithrab  
Flat 3  
117 Queens Road  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk

## And a Rom bug is not OK!

Prepare yourself for a shock. Sit down and have somebody nearby ready to telephone for an ambulance! There is a ROM on the ZX Spectrum Rom!

You don't believe me? OK, this will prove it. Type a short

program. Type in a line number one higher than the last line of the program (the example of the program made in last July does it). Now press Enter.

Yes, the last line cannot do this, but so does the program error. Well, that just about wraps it up doesn't it? Sinclair Research is hopeless! (I've driven a man? No — it is still a great computer.)

Paul Marrow  
77 Broom Old Lane  
Selkirk  
Knox

## Just keep soldering on

Last November Mangan (Peak Load Plus, PCW July 15) also had the problem of a loose power jack plug on my ZX81. The solution I found is very efficient and simple if you have a soldering iron.

Remove the upper half of the case to expose the printed-circuit board. Cut in diagonals the jack plug from the power lead and forced the lead through the socket. Carefully pull the two solder clips upwards and pull the lead past them.

The leads can be stopped off insulation of the leads and soldered onto the clips. Make very sure that the positive lead (painted black and red) or on some cases black and white) is connected to the right-hand clip (which would normally contain the jack plug top) and that the plus lead is connected to the left-hand clip.

Note however that the procedure will render your guarantee void but it solves the problem and in much more secure than using anything else such as insensible clips.

When the jack plug has been removed and before the leads are soldered to the ZX81, is a good time to fit an aerial switch onto the power lead. This should be fitted between the power pack and the ZX81 and not between the power pack and the mains.

I also weighed a small piece of rubber into the socket alongside the power lead so that if the wires were accidentally pulled this would

take the strain rather than the solder joints.

James Lewis  
26 Spring Street  
Bathurst  
Abingdon  
Leamington

## Yes . . . we all have our faults

I have just received an BBC Micro Model B and wonder if anyone else has the following small fault.

The screen is occupied by one dot per character in a matrix of 40 x 25 dots (the test-compatible one) is called. The matrix can however be overwritten in Mode 7 (a bit confusing) and disappears in all other Modes.

I tried near Open Forum 5th Run (June 24 page 21) program and wonder when you are going to publish the rest of the program, since line 610 is clearly not the last line needed. Am I missing the missing lines?

see it again? 7000 6070-100  
see 6060-100

I would like to congratulate you on the Forum program in the most recent issue; it well deserved the Best Program!

Dr David Tivier  
1 Maresfield  
Dorchester  
Dorset

There then for Sir-Ron will wish you Apologies for the confusion.

## Some have many faults

A disappointed Sinclair user. As I was mentioned in the letter from Sinclair Research (PCW July 15) which stated that "on ZX81s with faulted Rom's were shipped to customers after July 1981" I received a ZX81 that I thought ROM 1.15 was about 1.15 in June 1982. The machine and 16K Rom pack were ordered at Christmas 1981 and the screen arrived on January 1982. Attempts to use ROM/ROM packs caused a crash. The ZX81 was returned to Sinclair. I received a Rom pack. When the ZX81 came back I

could never enter more than 25 lines of a program with the Rom in without crashing. The Rom pack was returned to Sinclair.

I discovered ROM 1.15 was not 1.15 in June 1982. The ZX81 was returned to Sinclair.

Third ZX81 and second Rom pack received. The system crashed repeatedly as before. The Rom pack was returned to Sinclair accompanied by a request for my money back.

Fourth? Sinclair have not been able to trace any orders or any record of my interest!

At no time have I received any technical advice or help from Sinclair Research, despite writing to describe the faults on each of the five returns I have made.

Sinclair has had my money since Christmas and at no time since have I had a working combination of ZX81 and 16K Rom pack.

You won't find me buying a Spectrum!

G D Pearce  
10 Oxford Lane  
Croydon, Mink  
Wicks  
Somerset

## But finally someone's happy

Please contact your club devoted to the ZX Spectrum as I use all the programs for my Vic20 with a Super Expander Cartridge. The programs are easily converted and work well.

But, please could you have a career devoted to the Vic20 for people with this cartridge as I think that the manual supplied by Commodore for it does not explain fully the art of programming in resolution graphics.

Coles Andrew  
Pennywell  
Marston Road  
Nr Witcomb  
Knox

We shall continue to publish the Spectrum page. There are no plans at present to have a Vic20 page but in shall of course continue to print articles and programs for the Vic20 as at present.

# Street Alley

A new game for Vic20  
by Robert Mayden

London has been devastated by a nuclear war. Most of the population died in the blast, or from the radiation poisoning that followed.

The survivors have formed themselves into a number of small, close-knit, gangs that compete with each other for what little food remains. The rule of law has broken down. Only the gangs remain.

Each gang controls a well defined area of territory. Outsiders who trespass on a gang's "patch" are killed without compunction. It is a dog eat dog world.

But, in a bid to end the endless hunting, the gang leaders agreed to hold a meeting amid the ruins of Wembley. All the gangs attended unarmed and under a flag of truce.

However, just when it seemed that a peace treaty would be signed, Chris Turner, leader of the Wembley Warriors, was assassinated. Suspicion immediately fell

on you and your gang, the Snow Hawks, because a Snow Hawk knife was found in the body.

In fact, it was a set up. Turner was killed by his number two, Duncan Kelly, who wanted supreme power over all the London gangs.

With the other gangs united against you under the notorious Duncan Kelly, you must fight your way back across London.

But there are a number of hazards to be overcome. Armoured cars driven by masked gang members will mow you down unless you can dodge them. There is a

polluted river that can only be crossed by jumping from one log to another. Falling off a log or crashing into the river bank will prove fatal.

The object of the game is to get free of your men into the main holes at the top of the screen.

The Snow Hawks will follow you unquestioningly, but you will have to exercise all your skill to return home safely. Press any key to start.





```

000 IF(LA= 000000) THEN GOTO 000
005 IF(C=THEA-A-1) GOTO 100
010 IF(C=THEA-A-1) GOTO 100
015 IF(C=THEA-A-1) GOTO 100

```



## Street Alley

[illegible]

# Street Life

## All's fair in Manchester and Edinburgh

**PCW staff report on the Manchester and Edinburgh micro fairs**

Over 4000 visitors found their way through Manchester's dingy war-torn backstreets to the city's Microfest 82.

Held at LMS at July 24 and 25, there were more than 70 exhibitors and six thousand visitors and five programmes.

Intended for the home micro owner, on trade on equipment for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum, both Faler Micro Systems and Kempton (Mans) Electronics displayed editions for the Spectrum — a sound box and a mother board plus I/O port, respectively. Spectrum software was also on display at the Richard Attenborough stand.

Manchester organisers David and Miss Hewitt were more than pleased with the show. Said Miss: "The whole event has been a tremendous success."

David was surprised at the differences in the audiences for the two days. The Sunday crowd was more business oriented while the home micro enthusiasts tended to come on Saturday.

It is unfortunate that micro events seem to come in pairs. Those who attended the Manchester Microfest in preference to the Edinburgh ZX Fair saved their considerations by crossing the road to the nearest public house — The Grogging Scotsman.

During the course of the two-day microfest a series of lectures were presented.

Alan Shaw (St Martin's College, Lancaster) spoke on Computer Interfacing for Experimenters. He explained the basic stages in the construction of a Z80 input/output interface. He also demonstrated how to select the pins for the parallel I/O organiser how to calculate their



Paul Krasnas: Will the alienation of ourselves from each other and from nature be solved by computers?

addresses and how to set up a simple control device. The device enabled him to use a Z801 to start and stop a model electric car.

Ross Allan (Glasgow Lecturer in Science, Manchester Polytechnic) looked at the BBC Computer in Education. He put forward his philosophy: "Ignorance of computers is not a crime to be ignorant of computers can be a disadvantage: understanding computers requires no special type of ability, and everybody has to start somewhere."

Ross felt that the emphasis of computer education should be placed on computer awareness for everyone rather than computer studies for the few.

Paul Krasnas (professor of the BBC) looked at The Computer Programme. I posed the question: Is Computer Literacy Really Necessary?

"No other new technology has ever been introduced with such a fanfare," he said. "In its time the motor car was every bit as significant a development — but there was no government department set up to give us that assistance."

People are for themselves that the car was a good idea. Why are computers different? And why needs this emotive phrase 'computer literacy'? The impression is given that — come the computer revolution — everything will be all right.

"Like other faiths you do not ask for evidence. Nobody asks how the computer is going to solve the problems in our society. Will the alienation of ourselves from each other and from nature, to say nothing of our rampant materialism be solved by computers?"

"People believe that computers will be the answer because they do not understand them. Computer literacy should give us the appreciation and therefore allow us to make the most of micro."

Stephen Adams (specialist hardware writer) delivered two lectures inside the

Spectrum towered the printed-circuit board of the Sinclair micro. Keep it Simple explained how to begin programming and how to make your programs easily understood by others.

Eric Dawson (Educational ZX User Group) looked into The Future of Micros in Schools.

"To get one computer in a school is not the end of educational computing — it is the beginning," he emphasised. The trend towards cheap powerful micros will enable schools to take a more liberal approach to more education.

"What is needed," he said, "is computer-aided freedom: rather than the 'batteries firm' scenario with children in computer learning capabilities. The micro must open our educational horizons rather than restrict them."

### Edinburgh ZX Computer Fair

The first true home computer exhibition in Edinburgh was an undoubted success. Nearly 1200 visitors attended the show which was organised by Gordon Hewitt and the Edinburgh ZX Computer Club.

The exhibition was set in the long concrete reception hall of Edinburgh's Meadowbank stadium. The local club took a large stand at one end of the hall. The rest of the exhibition was arranged in a neat line of tables extending about 60 yards down one side of the hall, leaving plenty of space for the visitors to mix around.

The main interest seemed to focus, understandably, on the ZX Spectrum. Those companies displaying the first Spectrum programs did particularly well, certainly in drawing a large crowd of potential hangers-on. The Bug-Byte Space Invaders program was the most popular draw.

We had a Spectrum on the Popular Computing Weekly stand. It drew a crowd of young enthusiasts, each wanting the others' ability to program it properly. Many people actually tried to buy our only copy of the manual.

One woman complained: "But I need another copy. My dog buried mine somewhere in the garden. He is always burying my books. Honestly I know where he's put it but this time I have had to give up. It's probably too late now. Next time I'll wrap it in polythene."

The imaginative organisation of the show by the Edinburgh Club — competitors ran the full length of the exhibition — kept many of the visitors right to the end. It proved quite fortuitous that there is a stronger home computing following in Scotland than is often assumed. The organisers hope more software and hardware companies in this business show their support.



A study in programming at Manchester

# Reviews

## software



Detail from the P-File program



Detail from the Backgammon program

## Sinclair/Psion Tapes

Sinclair Research's *Casualty Survey* and branches of *Hi Hi Smith* (Z801 16K cassette)

Psion are the second software house to sign an exclusive deal with Sinclair.

Five of the tapes are games, two of these produced by Microgen under the Psion banner, and the packaging is eye-catching.

*Chess* (£8.95), one of the Microgen tapes, has had £3 clipped from its previous price. There are ten levels of play in the program and these may be changed at mid-play. The tapes may also be set up for problem solving. All legal moves are recognised. A good solid program. The tape includes a chess clock on Side 2.

*Space Hunter* (Sinclair £3.95) is the other Psion tape. *Axata* (Raddo) is your quarry in Yarn. Not even a mother ship to relieve the boredom. *Bombard* (for New York, at Microgen) tells a when they sell it (well), is the well-known sky scraper demolition program. This is a very addictive game. Please let me know if you succeed in landing your plane — I've not seen it (time yet, even though upwards of 300 kids had it at the local school last).

The rest of the programs are Psion's own products, a couple of which were available before the Sinclair connection. *Backgammon* (£3.95) is the only program I know of which plays my favourite board game, and so was a must which I saw & advertised some months ago. I have since

undergone a tiding-up operation, with serious times being made later. Like all Psion programs it has great visual appeal. Below the board is the accompanying instruction on the disc and between them a box which shows the moves made by computer and human opponent. On the bar you can see the doubling cube, which the program is intelligent enough to offer at the right moment.

While the program will execute all the recognised openings, I am a little worried at its tendency to bid with its back men after only two or three throws, which leads to a game of boring stonks. This happens in my experience once every four or five games, but it is easy to break the game and start again. All in all, however, it's very good program, and a very rewarding one. *Sinclair's Island Pentious Swamp* (D4 T4) are the games on the other previously available tape, and are very good value. *Pentious Swamp* contains a Princess which the player has to rescue and escort to safety. It's really more of a board game than an adventure, but along the way you will meet various monsters and pick up bits of treasure or weaponry with which to battle or fight them.

*Sinclair's Island* is a graphic adventure in which you take a Sunday morning stroll around a garish island. Unrewarding of course apart from the giant tiddly monsters, and so on. Again, you can battle or fight or run away. Reaction times are a little slow, but a nice scrolling technique helps relieve any boredom. I've played the game for a year, and still not succeeded in finishing it.

**F**light Simulation (£3.95) is the final game tape in this package from Psion. It's worth one to push to the most elegant of programs — in my opinion the best use of machine-code yet available for the Z8011.

You are placed in the pilot's seat of a twin-engined prop plane, somewhere near a landing strip, and your job is to land safely. There are several modes, but they all feature the same cockpit display of altimeter, two counters and so on, together with a view from the cockpit window. This shows the horizon, which will show the degree of bank and rate of climb or descent. This is all depicted in a most realistic way.

To help you find the runway, you may call up a map, and this together with several beacons, will guide you to the final approach. At this point, you may select a visual approach, and this will consist of a 3D representation of the runway and approach lights. As a real life one you must be kept on high-speed, and the plane kept from stalling.

My-Pile and Vii-Calc (£3.95 each) are

the two remaining Sinclair/Psion programs.

As its name suggests, *Vii-Pile* is a data filing and retrieval system. The difference between the and the multitude of others available is that *Pile* has extensive options run on the large screen and incorporated the design to fit into the Z801, at the same time continuing their policy of elegant and attractive graphics.

One is able to format the file to any degree, with graphic borders and so on. Forward planning is required in the formatting — it cannot be altered during data input. Once data is input there are a number of powerful commands to use in processing the information. For example, the user can initiate a search which will print out a specified field in alphabetical or reverse order. In the demonstration for storing information of the world's countries, for instance, all the records may be listed in city population order, or to show every occurrence of a particular language. Thus one can quickly find which countries speak Spanish, and which ones use Pound Sterling, and so on. Using the system at home, one could find and print out every record, say with a particular telephone number, or every stamp with a blue flower in the design.

Continuingly, an analysis of memory remaining while inputting data, and a way to printer routine.

The companion tape to *Vii-Pile* is *Vii-Calc*. As its name suggests it is a Z801 version of Visicalc. Necessarily limited by the 16K limit, it is nevertheless a very useful cash financial system for the home user, or the one-man businessman, who has not yet opened.

The program acts as a window on to 695 bytes, which can be filled with numerical or alphabetical data. Formulae can then be applied to these data in many different ways. The user can define the formulae rules as, for instance, mortgage rates (see electricity etc), and the vertical axis, as January, February, and so on. Data for the various months may then be input, and the formulae set. The totals will be displayed in the boxes chosen. Any data may then be changed, and the effect on the whole noted.

## Summary

The Psion tapes are a welcome change from the usual run of Sinclair Software (from any source). All are good value, but I would single out *Flight Simulation* for special mention — you will not see a better game program. Until Psion create one for the Spectrum, *Vii-Pile* and *Vii-Calc* are a brave attempt to emulate much more expensive packages and certainly not used as far as is possible on the Sinclair.

TS

# Reviews

## hardware



### Character Generator

Heaven Hardware, 4 Astley Road, Astley  
Worthington, Cumbria  
Price £11.95

This board allows you to use the inverse character (usually white on black) of your ZX80 or ZX81 to program your own character set.

The ZX character set is made up of characters each with one byte (memory location) width and eight bytes length. Each byte contains eight dots which can be on or off giving either black or white dots.

With this board any of the 64 characters can be changed by following the appropriate dot pattern into the various bytes that make up that character. On this board there are two inverse character sets and using Pokey commands you can alternate between them. Unfortunately there is no way to restore the original Ram-based inverse character set when using this board.

The board can be connected quite easily to the ZX80 by plugging in a ribbon strip and plug into the Ram socket and transferring the Ram to a similar socket on the characters board. There are five other ways to solder on to the printed-circuit board and this can be quite difficult as the connections have to be made to both sides of the printed-circuit board.

On the ZX80 the fit is very tight because it was not possible to connect the board as suggested since that would have involved obstruction of the tape sockets. An attempt was made to take it out the other side of the ZX81 but then the case would not fit on. In the end, since the board is too big to fit under the ZX81 keyboard, the best had to be left off in order to use it. The wires for the rest of the connections had to be traced out on the printed-circuit board as the diagrams were rather unprecise.

On switching on you are presented with a random pattern of dots instead of the cursor. The normal characters come out the same but as the inverse character set has been replaced with Ram all the mode characters are lost (Inverse L R G).

A program is provided to revert to the normal character set by reprogramming

the inverse character set — called Inverse Into Programs — but the instructions fail to mention it. Two other programs are included. A graph paper which fails at trying to plot at zero or below and a double-sided character generator which I could not get to work. A chart is also provided to help you design your own characters and is about the most useful thing in the instructions.

#### Summary

This board is cheaper than other character sets but I would much rather spend the extra money and have fewer problems.

SA

### Spectrum 32K RAM

Smiler Research, Freepost, Camberley,  
Surrey  
Price £80

The Smiler add-on 32K Ram board for the ZX Spectrum must be fitted by their factory in Scotland so if you wish to purchase the board after buying a 10K Spectrum you must send the Spectrum back with the order.

This seems a pity because it is so easy to fit the 655 to the 650 board into the sockets provided on the back part of the printed-circuit board. The sockets for the add on board are provided on every type, both and it can only be fitted into them one way round. The pins on each end of the board are stout and there is little chance of bending them.

The board contains eight Ram chips (20K x 1 bit) made by Texas, two decoding chips, two charge-over chips which operate when the dynamic Ram needs to be refreshed and eight small ceramic capacitors to smooth the power supply to the Ram.

The decoding is simplified by the fact that only one address line is needed to address all the chips (A15). When this line is binary 1 then the Ram is turned on. There is no need to tell the computer how much memory is available (as on the ZX81) since it is automatically counted from 64K downwards. Also, all the Ram can be used for machine code or basic programs. This means that there is no space left for graphics, ports, etc in memory. The Ram used on the board are not standard Texas components. They appear to be similar to 4164 (64K x 1 bit) chips but only contain 32K. Could they have been Texas reports? Only Smiler seems to be able to get hold of any.

The board works very well and is noticeably noisier in half from the voltage regulator or other signs of overheating have been noticed with it in use. The Ram-pack website is no longer present as

all other equipment is connected to the edge connector and the Ram pack has its own connection sockets and is firmly held.

It is not possible to turn off sections of the Ram for more memory or other devices from the edge connector as Ram CS (chip select) is not provided. This is a great pity as not everyone wants to be restricted to what the manufacturer wants to provide.

#### Summary

The Ram board is well made and should cause no problems in use. However, to fit the units the ZX Spectrum must be sent back to the factory. This is a great disadvantage as is the price of £80. Other Ram boards are certain to be available soon with at least the same amount of Ram which may provide a Ram CS so that other devices can be used with the Ram pack.

SA

### Programming ZX81

by M James and S M Bar  
Dorland Books Ltd, The Greenlands,  
Shepherd Bush Road, London W6 7AF  
(Tel. 01-833 2647)

Available from larger branches of W H Smith  
Price £1.95

The Art of Programming the ZX81 is a simple yet professionally produced book of 86 pages. At £1.95 its price bears a close resemblance to normal books, then come getting books which for some reason are still grossly over-priced.

It is a well written and carefully thought out book which does for more than present a series of 1K games. Each chapter introduces and explains a different topic, explores a few ways of using the techniques discussed in simple programs and then helps you build up those programs. In this way you usually end up with a couple of games out of each chapter.

These include card games in the chapter on random numbers, snakes, ladders and cannon-ball in the chapters on moving graphics, clocks and random time tables in the chapter of the use of Fast Slow and Pause, and codes and ciphers in the chapter on string handling.

There is also an excellent short chapter introducing the Pokey and Pokey functions. This should do much to dispel the mystery for some reason still surrounding these two commands. There is also a useful log letters program.

#### Summary

A very useful and well written book which we strongly recommend for new users of the ZX81. It is a pity that the book has arrived on the market so late in the day for the ZX81.

DS

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ZX 2 SLOT MOTHERBOARD	.....	£19.95
STACKABLE CONNECTOR	.....	£3.50

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# Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas

It is important that your programs are bag free before you send them in. We cannot test all of them. Contributions should be sent to: Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2H 7HF

## How to contribute

Each week the editor goes through all the programs that you send to Open Forum in order to find the Program of the Week.

The author of that program will qualify for DOUBLE the usual fee we pay for published programs.  
(The usual fee is £10)

### Presentation hints

Programs which are most likely to be considered for the Program of the Week will be computer printed and accompanied by a cassette.

The program will be well documented, the documentation being typed with a double spacing between each line.

The documentation should start with a general description of the program and then give some detail of how the program has been constructed and of its special features.

Listings taken from a ZX Printer should be cut into convenient lengths and carefully stuck down on to white paper, avoiding any creasing.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope

## Simon

### on BBC Micro

Simon is a program to simulate the electronic game of the same name. It runs on the BBC Model B and demonstrates some of the interesting colour graphics and sound features of the BBC.

The program starts by switching off the colours RED GREEN YELLOW and BLUE. A circle is then plotted with each quadrant assigned one of the four colours. The screen remains black as all three colours have been turned to black. On the issue of a VDU13 command the colours can be turned on and off at will.

The computer flashes up a segment of colour accompanied by a sound (each colour has its own sound). You then have to repeat the colour by entering R, G, Y or B. The computer increases its sequence of colours and sounds by 1 until either a

to next page

Simon  
by D M Dodsworth

```
1 CLR
2 FOR I=1 TO 5:PRINT:NEXT I
3 PRINT CHR$(143) "          SIMON" : CHR$(143) "
4 PRINT CHR$(143) "          =====" : CHR$(143) "
5 PRINT:PRINT "  PRODUCED BY: A.K. and D.M. Dodsworth"
6 PRINT "          59 Belmont Drive"
7 PRINT "          Braconote Hills"
8 PRINT "          Swanton"
9 PRINT "          Nottingham NG9 3PT."
10 TIME=0:REPEAT UNTIL TIME=200
11 CLR
12 PRINT:PRINT "Do you need instructions (YES/NO)",AB
13 IF AB="NO" THEN 100
14 CLR
15 PRINT:PRINT
16 PRINT "  INSTRUCTIONS"
17 PRINT "  ====="
18 PRINT
19 PRINT "  This is a computer version of the"
20 PRINT "  popular electronic game 'SIMON'. The"
21 PRINT "  computer flashes a segment of a circle"
22 PRINT "  and plays a note. You must follow it."
23 PRINT "  If a blue segment was shown, type 'B',"
24 PRINT "  for red type 'R', green 'G', and yellow"
25 PRINT "  'Y'. If blue then red were flashed show"
26 PRINT "  type 'BR', and so on. The screen will be"
27 PRINT "  blank for a few seconds at the start"
28 PRINT "  of the game, don't worry. Good luck!"
29 FOR I=1 TO 7:PRINT:NEXT I
30 INPUT "  press RETURN to commence"DS
31 DIM STORE(10)
32 MODE 3
33 PROCIPPLE
34 FOR A=1 TO 10
35 STORE(A)=RND(4)
36 NEXT A
37 FOR B=1 TO 10
38 PRINT TAB(1,20):PC(20,1)
39 FOR D=1 TO A
40 TIME=0:REPEAT UNTIL TIME=30
41 VDU19,STORE(B),STORE(B),0,0,0
42 ON STORE(B) GOSUB 390,420,440,500
43 TI=TIME
44 REPEAT UNTIL TIME=TI+50
45 VDU19,STORE(B),0,0,0,0
46 NEXT B
47 INPUT TAB(1,20):HOW REPEAT "Y/N"
48 L=LEN(STR)
49 IF L=A THEN GOTO 310
50 PRINT TAB(1,30):SPC(20,1)
51 PRINTTAB(1,30):PROMD NUMBER OF ENTRIES"
52 TIME=0:REPEAT UNTIL TIME=200
```

# Open Forum

## from previous page

reaches 10 or you fail to respond correctly.

The program is written in a structured manner using procedures and sub-routines. The maximum number in the sequence can be increased easily by changing line 180.

## O and X Maths

on ZX81

This program is intended to be an exciting game and challenge the mathematical skills of the players. Intended for average primary age children. It is based upon the popular naughts and crosses game. I have tried to make it as simple to operate as possible.

On loading the program will automatically run if SAVED by G030 2600. The two players are asked to type in their names. The screen then goes blank for ten seconds whilst the computer prints the screen and checks the questions it sets at random.

### Variables used:

**Arrays** H\$: Players names — up to 12 letters are accepted and the name is positioned within the middle of the string — by lines 50 and 75 — to produce easier printing.

**Q\$** Stores the questions. The element is changed to the appropriate symbol for the check routine if the question is correctly answered. If longer questions are set by altering lines 230 and 240 it may be desirable to set Q\$ (16).

**Strings** H\$: Players names are input before storing in middle of element of H\$ array.

**A\$** Question numbers are called by touching the keyboard. Only unanswered questions may be called due to the check in line 435.

**IS** If letters are used to enter and.

**RS** Question answer is entered by player.

**Loops** **F** Time loops. It produced a more stable display than PAUSE.

**A** Provides PRINT AT points for board in lines 110 to 180. Used to count element of Q\$ array in lines 220 to 250.

**A & B** Provides relevant letter to print in each box in lines 150-170.

to next page

```

295 PRINT TAB(1,29)SPC(20);
297 PRINT TAB(1,30)SPC(20);
298 PRINT TAB(1,31)SPC(20);
300 GOTO 260
310 END
320 FOR C=1 TO A
330 GOSUB 340
340 NEXT C
350 IF S=1 THEN PROCEDURE
360 NEXT A
370 RETURN
380 SOUND1=-10,0,0
390 SOUND2=-10,10,0
400 SOUND3=-10,20,0
410 RETURN
420 SOUND1=-10,30,0
430 SOUND2=-10,50,0
440 SOUND3=-10,100,0
450 RETURN
460 SOUND1=-10,50,0
470 SOUND2=-10,100,0
480 SOUND3=-10,150,0
490 RETURN
500 SOUND1=-5,100,0
510 SOUND2=-5,150,0
520 SOUND3=-5,200,0
530 RETURN
540 REM=====
550 REM=SUBROUTINE TO CHECK FOR CORRECT SEQUENCE
560 P=HID$(X$,1,1)
570 IF P="O" THEN P=1
580 IF P="X" THEN P=2
590 IF P="H" THEN P=3
600 IF P="B" THEN P=4
610 IF P=" " THEN P=5
620 RETURN
630 DEF PROCEDURE
640 REM=====
650 REM=PROCEDURE TO PLOT CIRCLE WITH FOUR COLOURED
660 REM=SEGMENTS - THE COLOUR IS SWITCHED OFF
670 REM=====
680 ANGLE=0
690 MOVE 640,512+400
700 FOR I=1 TO 4
710 CCL 0,0,VALUES,1,0,0,1,0
720 FOR Y=1 TO 9
730 ANGLE=ANGLE+10
740 MOVE 640+Y*12
750 PLOT 95,1;INT(60/ANGLE)+1+400+640,CCL
760 ANGLE=ANGLE+1+400+512
770 NEXT Y
780 NEXT I
790 ENDPROC
800 DEF PROCEDURE
810 REM=====
820 REM=PROCEDURE FOR SEQUENCE PROCEDURE
830 REM=====
840 GOSUB 340

```



# Open Forum

from previous page

Provides print co-ordinates for questions in lines 320-380

C Checks through question to provide better print spacing when question is called in lines 470-520. It actually only needs to be FOR C = TO 3. If lines 380 and 340 are amended this may also require alteration.

C Checks for winner by comparing the relevant elements of QB array for Qs and Xs in lines 710 to 760

E Ensures loop using QB in lines 560-600, 1370-1390

T Indicates player's turn by calling relevant element from QB array and also decides which symbol to print in lines 410 to 530

Number C Question counter in print routine lines 310 to 340

F Flag set in print loop lines 470 to 515. Because it is possible to jump out of a loop in EX Basic, lines 475, 476, 477 and 515 may be safely omitted.

X & Y PRINT co-ordinates for Q and X symbols in lines 520-570

Z Counts number of squares filled to check for winners in lines 700 to 800

The memory required is about 4K and the loading time from tape is 2 minutes

## Grand Prix

on VIC-20

In this game you have to bet on a racing car and then watch the race to see if you win or not. The odds for each car change for every race and depending if you have chosen the easy or the hard game you are either told the odds before the race or not.

To select a car just enter the first letter — is P for purple — and state your bet. The program is lock-proof so you can't bet more than you got!

The listing is in lower case letters as this is the mode in which the program runs, so capital letters are easier to see for proof-reading.

Program notes

Line 110-120 Sets the odds for each race  
Line 130 The second print symbol is for cyan (in lower case)

Line 140 The second print symbol is for yellow (in lower case)

Line 217-218 Deciphers which car is

to next page

```

540 PRINTTAB(1,10)"YOU FAILED ON SEQUENCE 714
550 END
560 ENDFUNC
570 DEF PROCNOM
580 CLS
590 PRINTTAB(5,10)"WELL DONE - YOU
    SUCCEEDED TO FOLLOW THE SEQUENCE"
600 END
610 ENDFUNC

```

```

  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

```

```

  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

```

```

  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

```

```

  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

```

O and X Maths  
by Chris Robinson

```

  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

```

to next page

## Open Forum

**Keywords:** child sexual abuse; disclosure; disclosure strategies

Line 250-260: The cars at the starting line  
 Line 260-270: Decide which cars move  
 Line 1000-1010: Clears the first car  
 Line 1020-1030: Pokes the first car to a

Line 1180-1440 Same as above but for the other years.

**Line 3220-4000** Decides if you've won or not. If you have then congratulations and what you win.

It will be noticed during the program that once the race begins, that the race track edge and finish line are the center of the race area being tested on.



**Keywords:** *Self-esteem, self-esteem threat, self-esteem threat response, self-esteem threat response style, self-esteem threat response style scale, self-esteem threat response style scale, self-esteem threat response style scale*

[illegible]

## Open Forum

[illegible]

### Nottingham Castle

2001

This program illustrates how Breakfast and Adventure games can be combined to address educational efforts.

The aim is to rescue Marion after knocking four archers off the shaft's wall; he always slips by moving roughly where she is located on

I have kept it as simple as possible to encourage others to play along with the *Shakespeare Festival* elsewhere.

Line 65 state the co-ordinates for the start (1), line 67 for March (4), line 67 for the anchors (2) line 69 for the stress (1), line 16-20 for the stress applied shear (5).

[illegible]

### Winter Timeline

1000

This program allows the Vc25 to be used as a matrix log tables book. It is menu-driven to select which tables are required and by inputting the function you want log (arctang etc), you can find the log or whatever function chosen, of that number. The tables is quite straightforward.

[Lipson, 2010](#)
[Lipson, 2011](#)
[Lipson, 2012](#)
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# Open Forum

from previous page

Line 118 Converts the input letter to a number between 0-14

Line 120 Goes to the appropriate line depending on the number in line 118

Lines 218-340 Calculate the function chosen



**PROGRAM OF THE WEEK**

```

10 PRINT "MATH TABLES"
20 HT= "MATHEMATICAL TABLES" H#="NATURAL" : D#="INVERSE"
30 PRINT "  22-2-82  " : GOTO 350
40 PRINT "  BY A. HORRELL  " : GOTO 350
50 PRINT "  228 BY A. HORRELL  " : GOTO 350
60 PRINT "  LOGARITHMS  " : PRINT "  ANTILOGARITHMS  " : PRINT "  NATURAL SINES  "
70 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
80 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
90 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
100 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
110 GOTO 350
120 GOTO 350
130 GOTO 350
140 GOTO 350
150 GOTO 350
160 PRINT "  LOGARITHMS  " : PRINT "  ANTILOGARITHMS  " : PRINT "  NATURAL SINES  "
170 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
180 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
190 PRINT "  COSINES  " : PRINT "  TANGENTS  " : PRINT "  INVERSE SINES  "
200 GOTO 350
210 Z#=" LOGARITHMS  " : GOTO 350
220 Z#=" ANTILOGARITHMS  " : GOTO 350
230 Z#=" NATURAL SINES  " : GOTO 350
240 Z#=" NATURAL COSINES  " : GOTO 350
250 Z#=" NATURAL TANGENTS  " : GOTO 350
260 Z#=" INVERSE SINES  " : GOTO 350
270 Z#=" INVERSE COSINES  " : GOTO 350
280 Z#=" INVERSE TANGENTS  " : GOTO 350
290 Z#=" SQUARES  " : GOTO 350
300 Z#=" SQUARE ROOTS  " : GOTO 350
310 Z#=" RECIPROALS  " : GOTO 350
320 Z#=" NATURAL LOGS  " : GOTO 350
330 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
340 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
350 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
360 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
370 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
380 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
390 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
400 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
410 PRINT "  NEXT  " : GOTO 350
420 GOTO 350

```

Maths Tables  
by Alan Horrell

# Programming

**A game that  
will teach  
the children**

David Nowodwilk offers some tips on ZKusion to primary schoolchildren

Looking through the advertisements of this or any other men's magazine one might be led to believe that the Z691 is little more than a video games machine. This, of course, vastly underestimates the potential of the Z691.

Although the business applications of the English menu are limited, the 2001 Association of American Publishers identified it as the

**Kind of education** The fascination that many school children have for video games can be exploited to produce a powerful educational tool. This two-part series looks at assistance given to the child recently started at primary school.

Installation of the program requires that the parent or official teacher enters words which are known to the child. The words are held in a data file, which can be saved with the program for reuse.

For those interested in different methods of filing data, you might like to know that "Clearance" uses an indexed sequential file.

**Abstract**

The child is given a randomly selected word from the data file with all the letters jumbled up. A series of choices appear on

the screen. The child has to replace each dash in turn with one of the letters to form the appropriate word.

The dash is to be replaced faster on and off. When the child presses a key, the dash is replaced by the letter. If the child gets the word right, then another word is presented; if the word is wrong, the child gets another try.

Type in the program as listed, then Run. When all the words have been entered, press **1**, and Save the program and data on tape.

The game is useful in helping the child recognise and spell words. The program can be used over several years of the child's education.

In next week's issue I shall be explaining how to help the child with elementary arithmetic.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]



## Sound & vision



Now drown all  
your sorrows

**Sewerz** is a real-time graphics game for the BBC where you are a little red man constantly chased around the sewer by greedy green goblins. As they pursue you mindlessly, your only hope is to lure them into the watery swamps where they drown.

You move about using the cursor keys. However, you may press the space bar to enter Hyperspace if you get into trouble. Only do this in emergencies. You may blow yourself up if you use it too many times.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Line 50 prints `QWERTY` in double height characters (`CHRS(145)`) in blue (`CHRS(40)+ESC[40m`). `+FX 4` makes the cursor keys return while an ASCII code `+O 40` restores them. `+FX 11` changes the repeat delay to one millisecond and `+FX 12` changes the repeat speed. `+FX 3` and `+FX 10` change the flash rate.

Line 750 point (x+32+17, y1-y+32-17) returns the value of 94 point which is in the middle of the TAB(x,y) position in mode 1 or 4 if line 750 is not indicated line 750 gives the value of -1. Why it should do this I do not know. If anyone finds out please write in and let me know.

This program was written on a model 11. If you want to try it on a model 8, change the following lines:

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**2212-2213</**

Contributors

You can share your own favourite Sound or Vision programs with other readers by sending lists with explanations to us at *Popular Computing Monthly*.

WATTS, RD. Board & Mason Paviors  
Computing Works, Rothwell Court, 75  
Winchester Street, London WC2E 7HE

[illegible]



# Peek & poke

Peek your problems to our address. Ian Boardman will poke back an answer.

## WHICH ONE SHALL I BUY, THEN?

Edward Mears' Longbridge Copter, Essex, writes

**Q** I have recently been thinking about buying a home computer, but I have come up against a problem. I do not know whether to buy a Spectrum or a Vic20. Could you please tell me which is best and why.

**A** We go at least one letter a week later this and usually more. I cannot tell you which computer to buy. It is your money you are spending and the choice of which computer to buy is subjective.

It is not difficult to find strong support among users for both computers. The best I can do is give you, and many other people who have asked this question, some general guidelines.

First money. The Spectrum will offer you the cheapest colour graphics entry into computing at the moment. The Vic has a dealer network that the Spectrum does not. If anything goes wrong with your Spectrum then it will have to go back to the factory. As yet there is too little Spectrum software as ready game pieces, but ZX81 software is very much cheaper than Vic software.

In terms of capacity, both latest and realised, then the Spectrum must be better. If you bought the most expensive Spectrum kit £175, it would be possible to get a basic Vic for about the same price. But the Vic would have 3-1/2K (less available to the user while the Spectrum has just over 4K) available.

The Vic disc drive will give you 174K for just under £400. If the Microdrive (planned for release later this year, does meet its speed specifications then each Microdrive will be able to supply 300K for about £25.

The other fact to keep in mind is that there are more companies dealing with hardware and software for the ZX81 than for any other machine. It is safe to assume that more of

these companies will be joining their activities to the Spectrum area now.

When you come to choosing your computer, write down what you want your computer to do, what you want it to do and what you want to pay. If you want a games machine, then take a close look at the Vic20 or wait for the Vic30. You might also be interested in the Atari 800 which has just been released from £300 to £200.

If you think that you are going to want to store a lot of information, and develop an expanded and versatile system, then you might find the extra cost of a BBC micro worthwhile. If you are not made sure what you want, then a factory-built micro-based UK ZX81 might prove to be the cheapest way of learning. The Spectrum is probably the best value for money. It has most of the facilities that the Vic and Atari have and more features.

In PCW Issue 17 we published a brief but careful overview of the ZX, ZX81 and Vic computers. But please note that the Spectrum we used for tests was a pre-production model that had faults which were corrected on the production units.

## GIVE US THE FAX ON CEEFAXI

P.J.Mansell of The Pir Press, Thorpe Wicborough, Suffolk, writes

**Q** I am very interested in reading about new items for the ZX81. I am also very interested in the BBC's Ceefax transmissions. I am wondering whether or not there will be an attachment that will fit on to the ZX81, so it can receive teletext. If you know of any plans could you print the details in Popular Computing Weekly?

**A** To my knowledge there is no Ceefax adapter for the ZX81 and I doubt if there is one planned at the moment. If you have the May 27 edition of PCW you will see an item on the same page about the competition to develop a Per-

nal adaptor for the ZX81. Blair Lockhart Ltd, who was the competition, should be marketing their adapter by Christmas.

As far as I know, the only other such adapter is being developed by Lion Visions of 18 Harcourt Terrace, London SW40. They also have on the market a combined Teletext/Printer/Videotext adapter. This would cost you just over £200. However, it also needs an ASCII interface. This alone would make it difficult for the ZX81, though not necessarily for other home computers such as the Spectrum.

## BUT WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

J. Dossantos of Tor Court, London W8, writes

**Q** I am 14 and I have just started learning computing. I am at the moment using an Acorn Atom, but I am a little confused. Could you please tell me what it does, and what that stands for?

**A** The letters A-Z and the first function are common commands. The dollar sign is used to enter a string. It can be used for letters and numbers, or characters. Strings are ways of manipulating information. A simple example would be to take a COMMAND in line 10.

If you run the program I Dossantos will appear.

The Rand statement simply sets a random number. Thus, a statement like X=ABS(RND(500)) would make the computer generate a positive number (ABS) between one and eight. The Rand makes it to effect random, and the eight gives the highest number.

## IF I HAT MAKE SO BOLD?

Robin Reid, Poole, Wiltshire, Bristol, writes

**Q** I suddenly realised that there were no programs to enable a Vic20 user to convert ordinary Basic into machine code. Do you know of

any? More importantly, is it possible to get a Basic program into the Vic, and get a machine code routine out?

Also, I have been looking for cheap adventures, but have been put off by the prices. I have heard that games offered for two and three pounds were considered to be too cheap. Personally I would buy them if they were just a pound, even if they were rubbish. So, please use your influence with the manufacturers to get them to bring down prices.

Can you also tell me what is an assembler/disassembler. I got put off buying books that do not tell me what they do in plain English.

**A** There are programs that are machine code, and Basic is one program. But you cannot put machine code in one and get a direct translation out of the other.

As for the price of software, that is always a matter of contention. I feel that in some cases prices are too high. This will only lead to attempts at piracy and so the second industry has shown that can have disastrous results.

I do not agree with you about buying programs that are rubbish. A bad program is worth very little more than the value of a second-hand CD magazine.

An assembly language is not easy to describe in the space I have here. It is essentially a language that is between true machine code which is known as a low level language and a language like Basic which is high level language. Although an assembly language works in machine code, the commands have many similarities to a higher level language.

STOP spending over that nagging problem. Write to Ian Boardman at P&P & P&P for the answer. Letters should be as brief as possible and include full name and address. Write to P&P & P&P, Popular Computing Weekly, Robinson Court, 18 Wiltshire Street, London W1C 2NP.





"...the quality of the colour display is excellent". Popular Computing Weekly

"The graphics facilities are great fun". Personal Computer World

"...the Spectrum is way ahead of its competitors". Your Computer

# "The world's best personal computer for under £500."

*Chris Simkins*

## Sinclair ZX Spectrum 16K RAM £125, 48K RAM £175.

There's the astonishing new ZX Spectrum - a powerful professional computer in every sense but price!

There are two versions - 16K or a really powerful 48K. Both have a full 8 colours, sound generation, a full-size moving-key keyboard and high-resolution graphics. Plus established Sinclair features such as: one-touch keyboard entry, syntax check and report code!

### Key features of the Sinclair ZX Spectrum

Full colour - 8 colours plus flicking and brightness-intensity control

Sound - 12KHz combined with variable pitch and duration

Massive RAM - 16K or 48K

Full-size moving-key keyboard - all keys at normal typewriter price, with repeat facility for each key

High resolution - 256 dots horizontally x 192 vertically, each individually addressable for true high-resolution graphics

ASCII character set - with upper- and lower-case characters

High speed LOAD & SAVE - 16K in 180 seconds via cassette, with VERIFY and BEEP for programs and separate data files

### The ZX Printer - available now

This printer offers ZX Spectrum owners the full ASCII character set - including lower-case characters and high-resolution graphics

Printing speeds 60 characters per second, with 32 characters per line and 3 lines per vertical inch

### ZX Microdrive - coming soon

Each Microdrive will hold up to 100K bytes on a single interchangeable microfloppy - with a transfer rate of 16K bytes per second. And you'll be able to connect up to 8 ZX Microdrives to your ZX Spectrum - they're available later this year for around £50

### How to order your ZX Spectrum

BY PHONE - Access Barclaycard or Trustcard holders can call 01-555 0250 for personal attention 24 hours a day, every day

BY FREEDPOST - use the coupon below. You can pay by cheque, postal order, Access, Barclaycard or Trustcard EITHER WAY - please allow up to 28 days for delivery. And there's a 14-day money back option, of course. We want you to be satisfied beyond-doubt - and we have no doubt that you will be

# sinclair ZX Spectrum

Sinclair Research Ltd.  
Starhope Road, Cammerley, Surrey  
GU15 2PS Tel: Cammerley (0371) 685311

Qty	Item	Code	Item price	Tax	Total
	Sinclair ZX Spectrum - 16K	100	£125.00		
	Sinclair ZX Spectrum - 48K	101	£175.00		
	Sinclair ZX Printer	21	£50.00		
	Printer paper (pack of 20)	12	£1.00		
	Postage and packing				
	order value < £25				
	order value > £25				
TOTAL					

☐ Please bill your order as 'bill to order'  
☐ Please bill your order as 'bill to order' (if you are a company)  
☐ Please charge to my account (Barclaycard/Trustcard and Access only)  
☐ Please charge to my account (if you are a company)  
☐ Please send me a separate bill for postage and packing  
☐ Please send me a separate bill for postage and packing (if you are a company)

Name   
 Address   
 City   
 Postcode   
 Tel.

Signature   
 Date

FREEDPOST - no stamp needed. Please apply for a 90p stamp. Express postage on application.